

CONTACT

The Official Newsletter of the Theatre Arts Guild

Canada's Oldest Continually Operating Community Theatre

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The Pond Playhouse
 6 Parkhill Rd. Halifax NS
 www.tagtheatre.com
 (902) 477 2663



NEXT AT TAG

She Stoops to Conquer June 18th to July 4th

It's a classic for a reason. Love, misunderstandings, interfering parents, great period costumes and a happy ending – who could ask for anything more!

She Stoops to Conquer closes the 2014-2015 TAG Season. Originally produced in 1773, this Restoration Comedy by Oliver Goldsmith is full of witty dialogue, engaging characters, playful pranks, and mistaken circumstances. Mr. Hardcastle wants his daughter Kate to marry the son of his friend, Marlow. Young Marlow comes to the country to meet Kate, bringing along his friend Hastings (who is conveniently in love with Kate's friend Constance). When they get lost along the way and meet Kate's rascal step-brother Tony Lumpkin, Tony convinces the London pair that they must stay at the "Inn" (in reality the Hardcastle home). Marlow, who is too shy to speak to women who are socially his equal, has no trouble speaking with Kate when she disguises herself as a barmaid. Add to this the complications caused because Mrs. Hardcastle wants her son Tony to marry Constance and mayhem ensues. All

is resolved with the visit of Lady Marlow and by the end almost everyone is wiser or happier.

Enjoy stories that are rooted in real characters and real problems. This play continues to engage us because the dilemmas are real. Who will I marry? How will I/we have money to live? How can I help my children be successful? How will I fit into society? We still wonder these things and, therefore, we can still relate to the characters. Their barriers might be different, but we can cheer when they overcome them.

I am delighted to be working with a talented cast and crew. We have an amazing ensemble cast who are exploring the nuances of the text and revealing hidden depths to the characters. I am privileged to work with a dedicated production team and crew with an exciting balance of experience and freshness. We are excited to share this production with you!

- Jolene Pattison, Director

Tickets on Sale NOW!

TAG Ticket Prices

\$15 Members/Seniors/Students
\$18 Non-Members

Note: TAG prices include all Ticket Atlantic service fees

Buy Your Tickets

- At the 23 participating Atlantic Superstore outlets
- By Phone (902) 451 1221
- At the door (subject to availability)
- Online at www.ticketatlantic.com
- Ticket Atlantic Box Office

Mailing Address: Theatre Arts Guild 287 Lacewood Dr. Unit 103 Suite 412 Halifax NS B3M 3Y7

June/July 2015 Contact

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Time is flying. We are winding down our 84th season. Our last production *She Stoops To Conquer* opens June 18th then we will be preparing for a milestone season, our 85th! If you attended the season launch you would have heard the announcement that the season will be four shows with a four week run with each show. This will allow: a) time to

prepare for a 85th celebration and b) more changes for patrons to see all our shows.

I'd like to take a moment to thank all our wonderful volunteers at Theatre Arts Guild. We would not be able to bring all our shows to stage without volunteers. Volunteering is easy at TAG. Just show up and want to be involved. Or contact our volunteer

coordinator through our website. We are all volunteers!

Being a volunteer at TAG is very rewarding. You not only get to work on productions you also get to learn some interesting skills and meet some wonderful people who can become long lasting friends.

- Angela Butler, President



2015/2016 TAG SEASON

Same Time, Next Year By Bernard Slade

September 17 to October 10

Directed by Michele Moore

The Emperor's New Clothes By PL McQueen

November 26 to December 12

Directed by Karen Waterfield

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof By Tennessee Williams

March 31 to April 23

Directed by Angela Butler

The Mystery of Edwin Drood, (or Drood) By Rupert Holmes

June 2 to June 25

Directed by Janice Jackson

Take Your Seat

Dedicate a Seat for \$500 and take a permanent place in the history of the Pond Playhouse. Your contribution is tax deductible!

Visit tagtheatre.com or email seatsale@tagtheatre.com for more information about this exciting fundraiser!

AUDITION CALL

Same Time Next Year

Same Time Next Year

Director: Michele Moore

Performance Dates: **September 17th to October 10th**

Auditions: **June 21st & 22nd, 6pm-9pm**
at The Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Rd.

The plot follows a love affair between two people, Doris and George, married to others, who rendezvous once a year. Twenty-five years of manners and morals are hilariously and touchingly played out by the lovers.

Seeking two versatile actors, one man, one woman aged between late 20s to early 40s (if you look younger) for lead roles.

Cold read - no preparation required, excerpts of script will be at the theatre.

For more information, please contact director Michele Moore at (902) 477-4943 or e-mail michmoore41@gmail.com

RECENTLY @ TAG



Proof took to the stage from April 30th to May 16th, directed by Deb Pollock! The cast included Stewart Delo, Emily Jewer, Phil Reid & Julia Somody.

THE FOIBLES OF HUMANKIND

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary - the 57th in a continuing series

Theatre, like any other art form, rises and falls in popularity. I have written several times about the establishment of the theatre as a separate building for the performance of plays in the Elizabethan era. The art form flourished through subsequent reigns, until Oliver Cromwell and his Puritan administration decided that theatres/theatrical offerings were undesirable things to have around and by 1655 had shut them all down. Theatres re-open, and the pace picks up, with the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 and by the time that Oliver Goldsmith sees *She Stoops to Conquer* performed (1773), the theatrical landscape is busy and varied. Audiences had the choice of dramas, comedies, farce, operas, ballad operas (using popular songs), even an early form of pantomime (and yes, the action was 'all mime,' with no spoken dialogue).

A night out at the theatre was a whole night out, comprising several hours of entertainment. The programme opened with a short introductory work, followed by the main piece, followed by one or two short fantasy scenes, ballets or pantomimes to round off the evening. Apart from the fact that the building now had the covering of a roof, the physical layout of the theatre was more sophisticated, but not substantially changed since the time of Shakespeare. The stage projected out into the

audience – a thrust stage. Whereas in the Bard's time, the cheapest tickets meant having to stand, now there were rows of benches facing the action. Those with more money in their pockets sat in balconies on the upper levels or in private boxes. It was even possible to pay to sit on the stage and exchange comments with the actors!

Being spoiled for choice, concern arose that older, more traditional (= more serious) theatrical forms were being neglected. Goldsmith and his contemporaries had largely left behind the heroic idylls of the past two hundred years, in favour of work based on contemporary themes and characters.

To bolster the support of plays of a serious or tragic nature, the Government stepped in and passed the Licensing Act of 1737. Only 'patent' theatres were allowed to perform drama. Other categories of stage entertainment were lumped together to be performed by 'non-patent' theatres. (If this seems unimportant, I should point out that this licensing system, eventually extended to apply to all types of plays, involved the scrutinizing of scripts by the Lord Chamberlain and lasted until 1968, by which time certain playwrights had learned just how many double-entendres they could get away with in their written work!).

But we're not concerned with tragedy here. Goldsmith is squarely in the comedy camp – 'laughing comedy' was his term, an attempt to portray ordinary folk with their vices and virtues, their foibles and frailties. The fact that almost 250 years after its composition *She Stoops to Conquer* keeps its place as a staple of the theatrical repertoire tells you he succeeded in his task!
- Judy Reade

Community Notes

Dartmouth Players presents:

The Game's Afoot (June 3rd to 20th)
Visit www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca or call 465-PLAY for more info

Bedford Players presents:

The Love List (May 21st to June 6th)
Visit www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca or call 832-3300 for more info

Coming Soon

Same Time Next Year

September 17th to October 10th

The plot follows a love affair between two people, Doris and George, married to others, who rendezvous once a year. Twenty-five years of manners and morals are hilariously and touchingly played out by the lovers.